D1

c) correlating any increase or decrease of the receptor cleaved by the peptide with an ability of the substance to enhance or diminish ~~TRRE~~ TNF receptor releasing activity

34. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide contains SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154, or fragment thereof which causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF receptor is expressed.

35. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:

i) it comprises a sequence encoded in the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1-10 or fragment thereof;

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ii) it is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1-10;

and wherein the polypeptide causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF receptor is expressed.

36. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has been obtained by purifying TRRE from human cells that express it endogenously.

37. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has been obtained by expressing a recombinant polynucleotide.

38. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has metalloprotease activity.

39. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1–10 or fragment thereof.

40. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1-10.

41. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof

42. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof

43. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof

44. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof

45. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof

46. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof

47. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.

48. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.

49. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.

50. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.

51. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.

52. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.

53. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with p55 TNF receptor in step a).

54. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with p75 TNF receptor in step a).

55. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with a cell expressing p55 TNF receptor in step a).

56. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with a cell expressing p75 TNF receptor in step a).

57. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the measuring of ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor cleaved in step b) comprises measuring binding capacity for TNF on the surface of the treated cell.

58. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the measuring of ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor cleaved in step b) comprises measuring the concentration of soluble ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor in culture medium from the treated cell.